

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 77

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Phillip Hankins upon being named 2016 Master Logger of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Phillip Hankins, whom the Tennessee Forestry Association has chosen as its 2016 Master Logger of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Hankins is the owner and driving force behind Hankins Logging, a company that is synonymous with meeting the forestry needs of Pikeville, Bledsoe County, and beyond. He has been a member of the Tennessee Forestry Association and the Tennessee Master Logger program since 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hankins has been involved with the forestry industry for more than forty years, and he has made it his life's work to promote the safe and efficient practice of harvesting timber; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Hankins's involvement with logging began as a teenager, when he helped his father work his sawmill and timber operation. Whether it was after school, during weekends, or over the summer, the young man was at his father's side learning the art and trade of the business; and

WHEREAS, when not working with his father, Phillip Hankins was participating in FFA, competing in many agricultural related events. He won a proficiency award in farming for timber his junior year and won the state farmers award for timber his senior year; and

WHEREAS, after graduating in 1975, at the age of eighteen, Phillip Hankins established a logging business of his own, overseeing an operation that involved manually loading trucks

with saw logs, stacking slabs, skidding logs by tractor or mule team, maintaining equipment, and always finding a way to get the job done and enjoy doing it; and

WHEREAS, during the company's formative years, Mr. Hankins did not always have access to state-of-the-art equipment, but he persevered, and today, not only does his operation use some of the finest tools of the trade, he maintains rigorous and weekly safety checks on all of his equipment, showing a discipline and determination to erase all possibilities of work-related hazards; and

WHEREAS, knowledge and safety are always a top priority for Hankins Logging, as Mr. Hankins encourages his crew members to become part of the Tennessee Master Logger program and even covers the expenses needed for the course. All employees are trained in basic safety and first-aid, and safety procedures are discussed in meetings held every Monday; and

WHEREAS, because of this dedication to safety and training, Hankins Logging has not had a single major work-related accident in more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, for the past five years, Mr. Hankins and his crew have mainly used the harvesting method of thinning. They work primarily with pulpwood on government lands, although Hankins Logging still works with a variety of agencies and individual contractors; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Hankins not only logs timber, but he consults with private landowners to ensure that their best timber needs are met; and

WHEREAS, after a job completion, Phillip Hankins ensures that any road traveled or plat of land worked is checked for debris, trash, or damage. His company then works to re-sow, re-grade, or re-gravel the job site to minimize the impact of the logging operation; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Hankins is actively involved with his state and local government, often asking his elected officials to help on legislation involving the forestry industry. Most recently, he made several trips to Nashville regarding county road supervisors imposing weight limits on roads at their discretion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hankins has a love for his community and gives back to it by making it a priority to hire locally, donating items to volunteer fire departments, and benefiting the Log a Load for Kids Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the grounding force for all of his strong work ethic has been to provide support for his family, including his wife of thirty-three years, Angela, and his three sons, Adrian, Dylan, and Cameron; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Hankins has been the face of timber industries for Pikeville and beyond, and he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Phillip Hankins for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Phillip Hankins upon being named 2016 Master Logger of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.